
Longacre's Ledger

Vol. 6, No.3

Summer 1996



Official Publication

Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Collectors Society

The "Fly-In Club"

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SUMMER 1996

LONGACRE'S LEDGER
Official Publication of the
FLYING EAGLE AND INDIAN CENT COLLECTORS SOCIETY

Vol. 6, No. 3

SUMMER 1996

FLYING EAGLE AND INDIAN CENT COLLECTORS SOCIETY

The purpose of the Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Collectors Society is to promote the study and collection of Longacre's design of small cents.

OFFICERS

President	Larry R. Steve
Vice President	Chris Pilliod
Secretary	Xan Chamberlain
Treasurer	Charles Jones

State Representatives

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ON THE COVER...

1870 Misplaced Punched Dated Indian Cent

The top of a 0 protruding out of the denticles below the 7 of the date can be clearly seen with the naked eye. Coins that display a date or digit(s) of the date that were fully or partially punched into the legend, devices, denticles or any part of the field not normally associated with the general location of the date are referred to as Misplaced Punched Dates (MPD). This numismatic area of interest has picked up considerably.

(courtesy Larry Steve, photo by Tom Mulvaney)

Articles, opinions and comments appearing in this Journal reflect the views of their author and may or may not agree with those of the Society

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LONGACRE'S LEDGER

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER



by Larry Steve, President

Grading, encapsulation, slabs, dipping, white, retoning and on and on. There has been a lot of press coverage these past several months about the certification services, and issues have been raised with regard to coins being dipped prior to encapsulation and toning that may occur due to long term exposure to atmospheric contaminants. Nearly all of this coverage has pertained to silver coinage. How does this relate to Flying

Eagle and Indian cents? And, what should we be concerned with, if anything at all? Our past president, Rick Snow, has commented on a number of occasions that all certified Flying Eagle or Indian cents at the same grade (and color) are not necessarily of the same quality. I agree.

Let me preface my comments that follow by answering a few questions. Do I own any red coins? Yes, a select few (including a certified 1872 graded MS-65 Red), although the vast majority of the Mint State coins in my personal collection are red and brown, with several gorgeous brown specimens. Are all my coins Mint State? No, I have quite a number of circulated coins generally ranging in grades from VF to AU; I even have one that grades G-6 that I'm fond of. The Mint State coins, are they certified? No, not all. Most of the coins in my collection were purchased years ago. I have, however, submitted many of them to be attributed and encapsulated; and over the years have purchased coins already certified. Will encapsulation help preserve and protect my collection? Yes, to a degree and perhaps more so than "raw" coins (although with proper storage and handling "raw" coins can be preserved in their original state). I would add at this point that red coins can and will tone if not properly stored, even if they are certified. This, I believe, is part of the issues of concern raised by recent articles.

When it comes to encapsulation, at the heart of the matter is grading. Secondary to this is to eliminate counterfeits, closely followed by the weeding out of whizzed, buffed, polished or otherwise altered coins. A gray area lies with respect to dipped coins. Most of the certification services do not designate a color when it comes to silver coinage (i.e. white versus yellow to black); however, they do designate a color when it comes to copper coinage. Since there is no market mechanism to trade white silver coinage

other than sight-seen (i.e. the absence of a designated color on the holder), there appears to be *some* tolerance to the practice of dipping. The same can not be said of copper coinage. All of the grading services unequivocally deny any dipping of copper coins, although some dipped copper coins have found their way into holders. This subject is almost taboo to speak of; perhaps a frank and open discussion of the issues would bring this into the light of day.

Grading is and probably will remain subjective, and this would include assessing the color of a coin. But grading involves many aspects apart from a coin's color. Of late, there has been far too much emphasis on the high-end Mint State red coins, and some information has been distorted. On the Internet, I saw posted a comparison between red Indians and "full head" Standing Liberty quarters and "full band" Mercury dimes. This is numismatically incorrect; it is a comparison between apples and oranges, between color and strike. A more accurate comparison would be between red Indians and white silver coinage. We need to get back to the basics. The grading of Mint State coins involves examining its strike, luster, surface and eye-appeal, with an emphasis on originality; and the grading of circulated coins involves examining the amount of wear. I would like to see the Club take the lead in developing a meaningful and useful grading standard for all grades, obverse and reverse ... to publish our own grading guidelines booklet with photos ... and to make it available to all members. We have had some starts in this direction; perhaps this could be accomplished through a partnership with the Club and a few firms or individuals as sponsors and underwriters of the project. The final Club grading standards would then be a consensus of opinions.

Until the next issue.....

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Larry;

Thanks for publishing my article in the Ledger. I have gotten one call so far about another coin with the same double die. The collector is from Michigan and his coin is an XF. He said that there appears to be a lump where the point of the 7 should be. This would have been great news a year ago when I sent in the article and needed other coins for confirmation. I am happy for any collector who is lucky enough or skilled enough to find other examples.

I would appreciate it very much if you would publish the following update to the story in the next Ledger.

Existence of 1858/7 Die #2 Confirmed

In the September 12, 1995 issue of the Numismatic News, the following front page article appeared:

2nd Variety 1858/7 Cent is Discovered

By J.T. Stanton

A second variety of an 1858 over 1857 Flying Eagle cent has been discovered by Kansas collector Mark McWherter.

Not only is the coin a new overdate for Flying Eagle specialists, it also exhibits a very nice doubled die obverse.

McWherter first came to me with the coin during the American Numismatic Association's Summer Conference in Colorado Springs in 1994. The doubled die was the primary reason he purchased the coin, but upon further examination, he felt sure that the coin was also an overdate.

I asked Len Albrecht, former director of ANACS, to examine the coin and give me his initial reaction to the possible overdate. Albrecht agreed that the possibility of an overdate existed, and like me would like to see overlays.

When I returned home, more photos of the coin were produced, including the date area, and the date area of an 1857 dated coin. Overlays were made, which quickly confirmed to me that the overdate theory was correct. Copies of the photographs and overlays were sent to Albrecht, Tom DeLorey, Bill Fivaz, Rick Snow and Jack Beymer, all of whom also confirmed the overdate. Don Bonser, formerly of ANACS, and Mike Ellis, president of CONECA (Combined Organizations of Numismatic Error Collectors of America), also confirmed.

The remaining portions of the 7 are somewhat weak, but certainly visible on high-grade specimens. There is actually more evidence of an overdate on this coin than on the 1858/7 die #1.

On McWherter's coin, the flag of the 7 is evident above the right of the second 8, with a portion of the downstroke of the 7 evident within the lower loop of the second 8. Remains of a secondary 1 are also visible left of the primary 1.

The date from the 1857 overlay perfectly matches the remains on McWherter's 1858. Doubling from the doubled die is very similar to CONECA die No. 2, yet slightly different. The doubling is evident on the eagle's eye, UNITED, and very slightly on STATES OF AMERICA. There are references of a similar double die in Rick Snow's Flying Eagle & Indian Cents, and no references of a similar doubled die in the recent book Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Varieties by Larry Steve and Kevin Flynn. This discovery by a dedicated collector is certainly proof that other varieties are waiting to be uncovered. Could other overdates be in the waiting? I'm certain!

Commentary

By Mark McWherter

The article above appeared in the September 12, 1995 issue of Numismatic News for one and only one reason. The dedication and selflessness of J.T. Stanton and other professionals in this hobby. When I purchased this coin, I thought it may be an overdate, but I also knew that proving it would be next to impossible. I had taken the Cherry Picking class in July of 1993 at the ANA Summer Conference. J.T. Stanton had taught us the difference between strike doubling and true double die coins, so when I seen him at the 1994 Summer Conference, I showed him the coin. His reaction was instantaneous... with a gleeful shout and a smile on his face... "IT'S AN OVERDATE". From that point, the above article tells the story. I just want-

ed to tell the other Fly-In Club members the rest of the story and to encourage them to look for the unusual and be inquisitive. It pays off! Not always in dollars, but more in the area of lasting friendships. I have made more friends at the ANA Summer Conferences, learned so much, and have enjoyed the vacations emerged in numismatics, that I can not begin to tell you. J.T. has been a good friend and I deeply appreciate his efforts. I encourage you to contact James Taylor, Educational Director at the American Numismatic Association, regarding the next Summer Conference enrollment. This July there will be a course devoted to Flying Eagle and Indian Cents. See you there!

Sincerely,

Mark K. McWherter

CC: J.T. Stanton
James Taylor

A third specimen was recently reported by Alan Smith at the Baltimore show June 14th.

*Larry R. Steve
Life Member #2*

WHY AREN'T THERE MORE?

(1857 FE CENTS WITH \$20 GOLD CLASHED DIE OBVERSES)

by Jerry Wysong

EDITOR'S COMMENT: Jerry's regular feature article entitled "How Many Are There, Anyway?" will appear in the next issue

It was a brisk, blustery morning; on September 22, 1857 in Philadelphia. The weather that day foretold of things to come as a very cold winter may be in store for Philadelphia again this year. Adam Eckfeldt, Chief Coiner for the US Mint in Philadelphia, arrived at the mint at about 7 AM to begin his work day on that cold September morning in 1857. It was his usual morning custom and ritual to review the day's production schedule before proceeding to the minting room for a quick tour and offering a morning greeting to each of the mint employees. This day was no exception, and Eckfeldt noted that today's schedule included the commencement of the minting of \$20 Gold Double Eagles. He quickly toured the coining room and spoke briefly with coin press operators already engaged in setting up the two coin presses for the minting of the \$20 gold coins.

Later that morning, Eckfeldt was busily engaged in the preparation of a report for Mint Director, James Snowden¹. Suddenly; a coin press operator named Isaac Prugh², burst into Eckfeldt's office breathless and unannounced, exclaiming in a loud voice that something is wrong with the \$20 obverse die in his coin press. Prugh went on to explain that after change over of his coin press for the \$20 gold operation; he ran a trial piece and in the examination of the trial coin; he saw damage in the fields of the obverse of the coin. Prugh explained further that he immediately examined the obverse die and saw the die had been damaged and because of the field marks it was his opinion that die had been damaged prior to installation into the coin press.

As Prugh calmed down, he responded to Eckfeldt's questions and reasoned that the nature, size and location of the damage to the die could only have been caused by the clashing of the die with the die of a smaller denomination die; most likely that of a Flying Eagle Cent. Coincidentally, production of the new Flying Eagle Cents was also in progress at the time. Prugh was a long time mint employee and experienced coin press operator. Eckfeldt had great trust in Prugh and valued his judgment and opinions. He decided that the only prudent thing to do was to temporarily halt production of all coinage until all dies had been inspected for damage. As he hurried out of his office to order a production halt and inspection; he muttered to himself; "That damn Frederick³," referring to his son who had done things like this in the past.

Eckfeldt entered the minting room and ordered the production halt. Following the advice of his trusted employee, Prugh; they began to examine the outputs of the five coin presses in operation which were devoted to production of Flying Eagle Cents. At the first two machines, the resultant freshly minted cents were perfect and exhibited no signs of die damage.

At the 3rd coin press, a different story unfolded. Inspection of the freshly minted cents clearly showed that some type of damage had occurred to the obverse die. Further examination by Eckfeldt and Prugh led to the conclusion that the Cent die had been clashed with the obverse die of the \$20 gold. The result was a reverse impression of Miss Liberty on the Cent die; and severe damage to the \$20 gold obverse die.

The FE Cent press operator, Joshua Bentley²; explained to Eckfeldt that when he first started up the press that morning; he quickly noticed that the press was not functioning smoothly after producing a small quantity of coins. He proceeded to thoroughly check out the press making minor adjustments as he went along; but found that the obverse die was not quite right - slightly out of proper alignment, and a bit loose as well. Bentley corrected the problem and resumed production by running a number of trial pieces. Satisfied that the press was now functioning smoothly and properly, he resumed production. He had not, however; inspected the resultant freshly minted cents for any abnormalities or problems.

It had taken Bentley a while to make the adjustments to his press and was behind in his production of the new Cents. His only production up to that point were the pieces produced earlier that morning when he first commenced work; and those lying in the collection bin which he had now only produced. In response to Eckfeldt, Bentley stated that his earlier produced pieces had already been combined with the previous day's production and were in the counting and keging room for distribution. The rest were right here at the press.

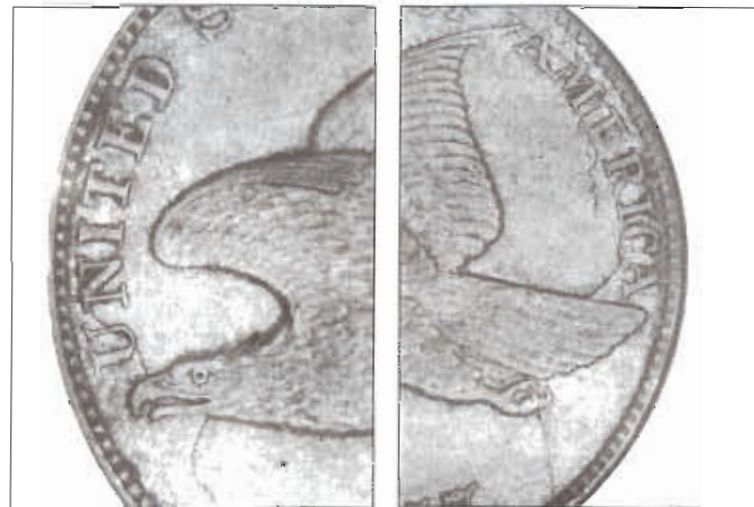
Eckfeldt decided to have both the \$20 gold and FE Cent obverse dies destroyed; both as damaged dies beyond repair. And; more significantly; Eckfeldt decided that to search the previous day's production of FE Cents for the handful that exhibited the \$20 gold die clash problem would be wasted and a time consuming effort. The few coins that would get into circulation would more than likely go unnoticed and be of little or no consequence to the quality reputation of the mint.

* * * * *

The 1857 Flying Eagle Cent bearing the clash marks of a \$20 Gold Double Eagle obverse is considered by many to be the King of examples of coins with clashed die imprints. How did such a coin come to exist? The

above story itself; is of course speculation and fictitious in that no documents have been discovered to support such an occurrence. However, NO \$20 Gold³ piece has yet been found which exhibits the characteristics of being clashed with the obverse die of an FE Cent; and only ten FE Cents have been reported to date; which exhibit the clash marks of the \$20 gold Double Eagle.

It is my contention and hypothesis; that the \$20 gold - FE Cent die clashing situation was discovered very, quickly after the clashing had



occurred. The clashing was viewed by the mint officials (most probably Eckfeldt) as being significant damage to both dies and warranted removal of both dies from service and their subsequent destruction. This would account for the discovery results to date -- no \$20 gold with evidence of die clashing; and so far less than 20 FE Cents exhibiting the clash marks of the \$20 Gold. When one considers the physical size difference of the FE Cent and the \$20 Gold; physical damage had to occur to the obverse die of the \$20 gold.

What about the few \$20 gold clashed die FE Cents that have been reported. The highest grade example reported to date is an AU-58; with four Good and VG examples and four VF pieces being reported; and one EF example has been reported. The fact that the vast majority of the reported examples are well circulated would indicate that they were not made and kept as curiosities or disbursed to collectors of the day. A few examples of this clashed die variety were accidentally included in a production lot. This few either went undiscovered or weren't looked for to begin with. This leads

to my conclusion that the clashed dies were discovered very, very soon after the clashing action occurred and possibly very early in the day as the day's work was commencing.

* * * * *

There also exist examples of 1857 FE Cents clashed with the Seated Liberty Half Dollar and also the Seated Liberty Quarter Dollar.

The same kind and/or sequence of event(s) may have led to the discovery of the Std. Liberty 50c obverse die clashing with the FE Cent obverse die. Thus the result that to date; NO Std. Liberty 50c3 has been discovered exhibiting the clash marks of the obverse of an FE Cent. A major difference though with respect to the FE Cents with these die clash marks; is that these resultant FE Cents (and the obverse die) may not have been considered to be severely impacted with result to overall quality standards of the finished product. As a result, there are many FE Cents; particularly in G/VG; which exhibit the die clashing marks of the Std. Liberty 50c.

With respect to the clashing of the FE Cent reverse with the reverse of a Std. Liberty 25c; this die clashing may have never been discovered by mint officials; or the clashing was considered to be of only minor impact to both clashed dies and left in service. This is evidenced by the fact that examples of the Std. Liberty 25c exist¹; which on the reverse; have the die clash marks of an FE Cent reverse. Examples of both the FE Cent and the Seated Liberty Quarter bearing this clashed die combination are relatively scarce. The conclusion that I draw from the relative scarcity of these clashed die examples, is that the die clashing occurred late in 1857 and relatively few were produced before production of 1858 dated coins commenced.

Regardless of the sequence of events which resulted in these strange 1857 FE Cent clashed dies, as they actually occurred and when; it has resulted in the King; Queen and the Little Prince of clashed die coins.

My thanks to Larry Steve and Kevin Foley; co-authors of the book *The FIND.ERSTM Report, A Comprehensive Guide to Selected Rare FLYING EAGLE AND INDIAN HEAD CENT VARIETIES*; who supplied the photographs which accompany this article.

1. The names of the Chief Coiner and Mint director are taken from information contained in *Flying Eagle and Indian Cents*; 1992; p36; by Rick Snow.
2. Fictional name for story continuity
3. Information contained in *Flying Eagle and Indian Cents*; 1992; p35-36; by Rick Snow.
4. It is estimated that about 25 examples exist; but only 15 have been officially reported as part of a variety census.
5. Depicted in *The Comprehensive Encyclopedia of United States Liberty Seated Quarters*; 1992; p 113; by Larry Briggs

LATE DATE INDIAN CENT VARIETIES

by Douglas W. Hill
Fly-In Club Life Member

Remember the 1886 Type 2 H-7? That is the variety that I discussed in the Fall, 1995 "Ledger" which has extensive crumbling on Ms. Liberty's profile and rim breaks over STATES and OF in the legend. So far, only 3 examples have been confirmed. As of this writing, Bud Kolanda still has not found one which tends to support my thinking that it is an R-6.

Well, Jack White has discovered another variety with crumbling which I have classified as the 1889 H-39. The coin is an EF-40 in original condition. The crumbling (which occurs as a gradual erosion of the surface of the die due to improper annealing or die steel) is easily visible at Ms. LIBERTY'S chin, neck, bust point, and lower ribbon on the obverse die.

There is a lump at the tip of feather 8 which occurs on examples throughout the late dates, but particularly on examples from 1898 and 1899. Usually the lump is accompanied by clash marks and it is my suspicion that the lump is a die chip caused by a clashing of the dies. However, more work needs to be done in this area. The 1889 H-39 has strong obverse clashing in the field near the nose and slight evidence of clashing on the reverse. Lapping lines are visible on the obverse at the edge of the ribbon and the middle curl. On the reverse, a die scratch connects the left wreath with the shield. The serif of the 1 in the date is located just to the right of the bust point.

The flow lines on both the obverse and the reverse are advanced, but this is often the case on dies which have been over annealed or made from substandard die steel. For now, I will call this variety a preliminary R-6. If you run across the 1889 H-39, please contact me at P. O. Box 1483 Winter Park, Florida 32790 or 407-644-6923.

Oh, by the way, don't count Bud Kolanda out on either of these crumbling varieties. He usually finds even the rare ones.

Continued on next page...



1889

H-39

4233

OBVERSE: Lines and points run to the southwest from the left side of the ribbon and the lower part of the middle curl. A line also runs to the southwest from the left side of the ribbon containing Longacre's L. A heavy clash mark is visible in the field adjoining the nose. A lump (probably a die chip from the clashing) is situated at the tip of feather 8.

Heavy crumbling of the die is visible at the edge of the chin, the neck, the necklace, and the bust point. Crumbling is also visible where the bust joins the ribbon, at the base of UN in UNITED, below the date, inside the lower loops of both 8s in the date, and around UNITED and RICA in AMERICA.

REVERSE: A line runs from the upper left wreath to the left side of the shield. A point connects the ribbon bow with ribbon segment 3. Light crumbling is visible on the C in CENT. Points are visible in the shield between stripes 1-6. The heaviest points are located between the upper parts of stripes 1-4. Faint clash marks are visible to the right of ONE.

Discovered by Jack White



ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** ANNUAL CLUB MEETING ***

The Fly-In Club will hold its annual club meeting at the A.N.A. Convention which is to be held at the Colorado Convention Center. The time and date of the meeting is set for Friday, August 16th at 10:30 a.m. in room C 204.

*** BOARD MEETING ***

A Board Meeting to be held at the ANA Convention, is tentatively set for the evening of August 15th (if not earlier), or early morning August 16th at the latest (prior to the annual general meeting). The purpose of this meeting is to discuss issues involving the *Ledger*, attributions files, finances, Constitution and By-Laws of the Club. Time, date and place to be announced at the convention. The meeting will be open only to Officers, State Representatives and Life Members.

*** MEMBERSHIP BROCHURES ***

Our membership brochures are being reprinted. Once printed, packets of fifty brochures will be mailed to each State Representative. Individual members who have a new prospective member should contact the State Representative nearest to them.

*** NEBRASKA STATE REPRESENTATIVE ***

Quint Hansen of Nebraska has volunteered to serve as the State Representative for Nebraska. We welcome him on board. Quint's address is 14154 N Street, Omaha, NE 68137.

RULES FOR SUBMITTING COINS FOR ATTRIBUTION

CHRIS PILLIOD
P.O. BOX 12722
FORT WAYNE, IND 46864

The guidelines below are asked of any member submitting a coin for attribution.

I. ANY SHIPMENT MUST MEET ALL REQUIREMENTS BELOW:

- A. The coin must be submitted with the owners name, full address and Fly-In number. Also, adhere to a maximum of five (5) coins per shipment.
- B. The coins must be of the Flying Eagle or Indian Cent type.
- C. The coins must exhibit some form of a die variety, such as a repunched date, doubled die, muled or transitional dies, odd clashing, etc.

At this time, cuds, retained cuds, or die breaks, double struck, off-centered coins, etc. should not be submitted (this is subject to change at a future date).

II. COST:

- A. Attribution. The cost for attribution of each coin is as below:
 - 1. Members. \$2.50 per coin for attribution (note: if no attribution can be made because of condition, damage, etc. this fee will be refunded).
 - 2. Non-members. \$5.00 per coin. Same rules apply.

- B. Photography. If photography is requested the cost per coin will be \$4.00 for either micro or macrophotography (\$5.00 if both sides of the coin is requested). The coin does not need to be attributed to be photographed. Note: That it is difficult to photograph slabs. Request of photographic copies from the book will be furnished at \$2.00 a copy if available.

- C. Return Postage and Insurance. Please be sure to add enough postage and insurance to cover the cost of returning the coin. If you are unsure please consult your postmaster. Please mention what you would like them insured for. Allow about 2 to 3 weeks for return.

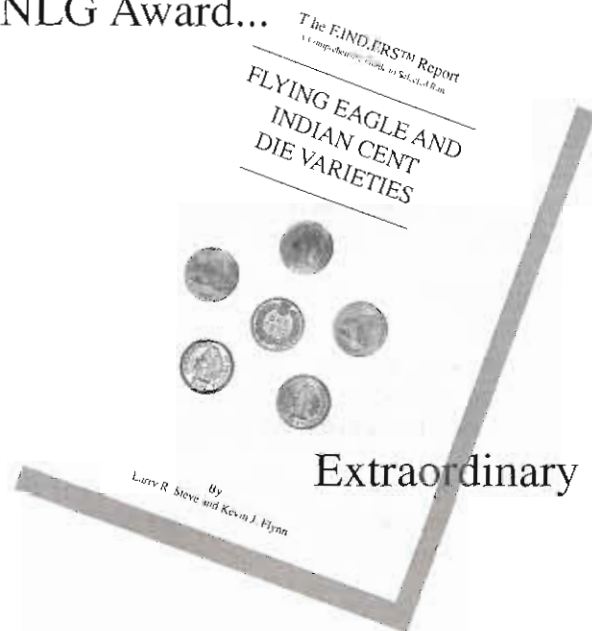
III. COIN PACKAGING:

- A. The best way to ship your coins is in the commonly used corrugated self-adhering "Merchandize" sealers on the market. Use at least a letter sized envelope please.
- B. The optimum way to ship the actual coin is in a "Kointainer" inside a flip of some sort. This allows for the ease of review and photography while not needing to actually touch the piece.

IV. GRADING:

It is not the intention of this service to grade coins therefore, no grading will be ascribed to any coins. There are several qualified third party grading services available for this service.

1995 NLG Award...



Extraordinary Merit!!!

This all new reference book presents a comprehensive review of selected rare Flying Eagle and Indian cent die varieties. In addition, recently uncovered and previously unpublished archival documents, letters and other historic papers are disclosed. Available in softcover and a limited edition hardcover and "notebook format", the book examines some of the major doubled dies, repunched dates, misplaced dates and other unusual varieties in extensive detail - 700+ photos (50 color), 244 pgs. (8 1/2 x 11).

Most intriguing are the three different 1857 Flying Eagle cents, each showing a clash mark from another denomination!

If you are a collector of Flying Eagle and Indian cents, this reference is a must. The rarity and pricing information alone is worth the cost of the book. Order today!

The Authoritative Reference

FLYING EAGLE AND INDIAN CENT DIE VARIETIES

By
Larry R. Steve and Kevin J. Flynn

- Written by one of the leading specialist for the series
- 35 years experience
- Five-time award winning collector
- All original comprehensive research
- Major contributor to other reference books

Extensive information

- Many previously unlisted varieties
- Enlarged detailed microphotography
- Full diagnostics for accurate determination
- Rarity rating given by grade
- Pricing guide by grade

	List	Net Price
Hardcover	N/A	\$95.00
Notebook*	N/A	\$49.95
Softcover	\$49.95	\$44.95

* 3-Ring binder included

Plus \$3.50 for shipping and handling
Maryland residents add 5% sales tax

Send payment to:

Nuvista Press
P.O. Box 291
Jarrettsville, MD 21084
(410) 557-8508

Dealer inquiries welcomed

INFORMATION ON STATE REPRESENTATIVES

The names and addresses of our Representatives by State are provided so that our current and prospective members may have a local contact with respect to Club programs and events.

Alaska

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P.O. Box 242212
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99524-2212

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TREASURY REPORT

January 1 to December 31, 1995

INCOME:

Membership dues	\$ 9,390.00
Donations	10.00
Sales	
T-Shirt	60.75
Ledger Back Issues & Single Copies	0.00
Video Rental	0.00
Advertising	<u>949.48</u>
GROSS INCOME	\$10,410.23

EXPENSES:

Journal Printing	\$ 8,332.00
Miscellaneous Printing	196.00
Postage	2,067.87
Expenses from Larry	133.07
Expenses from Charles	71.14
Expenses from Xan	828.58
Envelopes, Paper, Typing, Etc.	96.00
ANA Membership	157.49
Photography	0.00
Awards, Plaques, Refreshments	53.28
Check Printing Fees	0.00
Return Check Charges	30.00
Bank Services Charges	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>11,965.43</u>
NET INCOME (DEFICIT)	(\$1,555.20)

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

As of
December 31, 1995

ASSETS:

Cash on hand (checking account)	\$8,549.80
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LIABILITIES:

Pre-paid regular membership dues

1996 (124)	\$1,860.00
1997 (89)	1,335.00
1998 (34)	510.00
1999 (8)	120.00
2000 (3)	45.00
2001 (1)	15.00

Life members

Paid in full(19)	5,700.00
On payment plan (7)	<u>520.00</u>

TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>10,105.00</u>
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NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	(\$1,555.20)
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MISPLACED DATES (MPD)

by Kevin Flynn

A misplaced date is when the date or digits of the date are fully or partially punched into the legend, devices, denticles or any part of the field not normally associated with the general location of the date on the coin. A date is misplaced if any part of the date, even one digit is found on the coin where it does not belong. Misplaced dates are usually referred to as MPDs. These are also commonly referred to as "blundered dates".

During the 19th century, the date was punched into the working die as the final step in its production. The working die was first annealed to soften it, then the engraver took a steel rod with the raised image of all four digits of the date on it (date punch), placed it on the working die and struck the metal rod with a mallet. Sometimes the engraver might strike the date punch several times into the working die to get a deeper impression. If the engraver made a mistake, such as making two images of the date in the working die, he might use an abrasive and remove the unwanted images.

How could a date punch so erroneously be punched into the denticles or any other part of the working die besides where it is suppose to be? First, the face of the working die is the same size as the coin produced, for the Indian cents the diameter is about 3/4 of an inch. The width of the 4 digit date punch was about 1/4 of an inch. This was also a monotonous task that was probably performed by an apprentice who was not as meticulous as the chief engraver. The date punch was most likely lined up on the working die using the bust as a reference, if the denticles was used, we would see many more dates in the bust. In doing so, it is very feasible that the engraver could have placed the date punch 1/10 of an inch below its normal position, on the edge of the working die in the denticles.

Examining enlarged pictures of digits in the denticles it is obvious to us that there is something in the denticles, but holding the coins in our hand, on most MPD's nothing can be seen. The engraver after striking the date into the denticles, if he examined the working die visually and saw no trace of the date, he would have just repunched the date into its normal position. There are some MPD's which can be seen with the naked eye such as this 1870 Indian cent with half of a 0 protruding from the denticles, and an 1897 Indian cent with the serif of a 1 protruding from the neck.

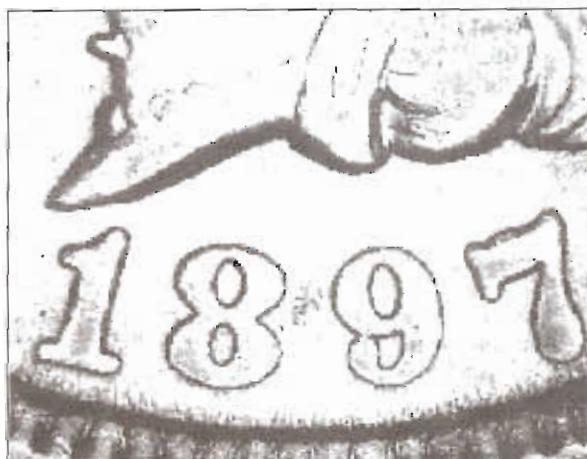
It is believed by some that in the 19th century a matrix or template was used as a guide for the date punch. There is no evidence of such a device, if one was used, it would have been placed over the working die, and the date punched through a hole in the matrix. A misplaced date could have occurred

if a matrix from a different denomination was used. There are several problems with this theory: As the working dies did not have lugs on them during the 19th century, if a

matrix was used, we might expect to see more dates punched away from the bottom of the die if the matrix was rotated in reference to the die. Also, as many of the denominations are of a different size, if an incorrect matrix was used, the matrix would be loose when placed over the working die. Another argument against this is that most MPD's are

at different in different places. Those in the denticles are sometimes seen close to the rim to some which are seen above the denticles. If a nickel matrix was used over a cent matrix, then they all should be in the same relative location. Finally, there has never been any mention of a matrix in any archive letter or equipment list from the Mint. I firmly believe that there was no such device used.

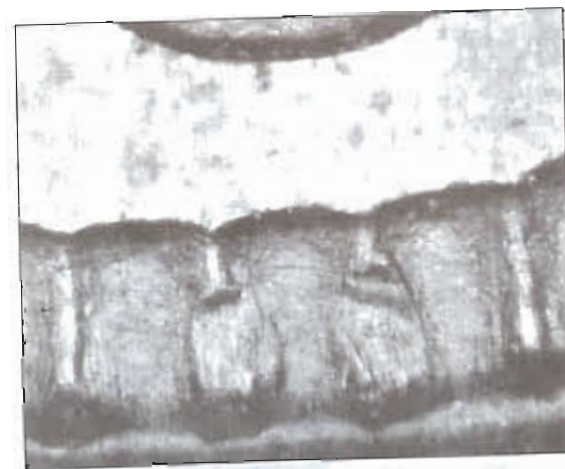
For years many collectors thought that the raised metal in the denticles were just die cracks, chips or scratches. In some cases they might be right. I have seen many low grade specimens with dirt clogged between the denticles that looked like something, I have also seen die chips of different shapes in the denticles. That is why I only collect UNC or BU specimens, it is obvious the shape of the metal in the denticles, also many times more than 1 digit can be seen there. Using overlays of the date, the distance between the digits can be verified as can the shape of the top of the digits.



Are MPD's hard to find and are they limited to certain years? In Rick Snow's book, there are 9 MPD's listed. In Larry Steve and my book there are 19 MPD's listed. Searching for dramatic varieties for the first update I found about 25 to 30 new MPD's from different years all in BU. Certain years like 1898, 1906, 1907, 1908 had an abundance of them, other years like 1893 had none. This doesn't 1893 does not have any, but just that I have not found any yet.

Are there any MPD's after 1909? No, in 1909, the date was put on the master hub, actually, the first 3 digits were put on the master hub, and the final digit was punched into the master die. This way the master hub could be used for a few years. This practice was done until about 1983 when all four digits were put on the master hub. I confirmed this with Frank Gasparro, who was the Chief Engraver at the Mint until 1983

Are there more MPD's found on Indian's than on Dollars or 20 Dollar Gold Pieces? Yes, lower denomination coins and dies got far less attention than did higher denomination. Also, there were usually many more coins and dies produced in the lower denominations. These dies were probably not checked as thoroughly as their higher denomination counterparts after they were finished. The diameter of the working dies is much bigger on the higher denominations as is the size of the digits on the date. This would have given the engraver a larger space to punch the date, and made it easi-



er to see where he was punching it.

Larry Steve made an interesting observation about dates in the denticles. If you study the denticles, they are usually shaped in a semicircle with the bottom starting at the level of the field. The denticles as well as the rest of the design elements are incused into the working die. As the date is punched into the denticles, the metal is pushed down at the highest point in the denticles. On the coin this will show up as raised metal between the denticles, and the denticles being thinned out

where they were struck. Examining a close up of this 1898 Indian MPD (FND-003), it is obvious that the top of a 8 is in the denticles. Looking at the denticle that the 8 was punched over, it is very thin, this is an obvious side effect of the date being punched down into the denticles. If this was just a die crack or scratch, the denticles would be whole.

Why are most of the MPD's inside the denticles and not half in the denticles and half in the field? Most likely obvious mistakes would have been quickly detected and the die discarded or grounded down to remove remnants of the digits. But a few got past the engraver and used in coin production. Take this 1898 (FND-001) on the left with a 9 on top of the denticles, or this 1907 (FND-004) with a 1 protruding from the denticles and 3



other digits seen in the denticles. Both can be seen with the naked eye.

Are there digits in other places besides the denticles? Yes, in the Indian cent series, there have been digits found below the bust, in the hair, protruding from the bust and neck, and just recently there is a possibility of the top of a 9 on an 1889 Indian which is next to the ear. An 1890 Liberty Seated dime has a MPD with the upper portion of the 9 in Liberty's gown. All 19th century coinage should be thoroughly checked for MPD's doubling, repunching or anything else unusual. Don't just look for known varieties, or at years which have a high frequency of varieties like most collectors. Search for the unknown.

Collecting MPD's of all denominations has become my passion. I am planning on doing a book on all MPD varieties on all denominations in about 2 or 3 years.

I want to share my discoveries with other collectors as they are found. After talking to Mike Ellis and James Wiles, we all thought it would be a good idea to centralize all findings of MPD's, as they have become very popular. I shall become the attributor for MPD's for all denominations for CONECA. This still has to be approved by the board of CONECA.

Each MPD will be assigned a reference number with a two letter series abbreviation, "MPD" - year - sequential number for that year. Example, the 1870 Indian cent with a 0 in the denticles will be ICMPD- 1870-01. The 1897 with the serif of a 1 in the neck will be ICMPD- 1897-01.

Included with each MPD, will be a description of how many digits are found and where they are located, also any diagnostics that can be used to identify the variety. I will also keep a record on who first discovered the variety and who first sent it to be attributed. The discoverer is the person who first has the variety published.

To learn about Flying Eagles and Indian cents, a copy of Larry Steve and my research and book "Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Die Varieties" is a must. We cover the top 100 varieties with enlarged microphotography which show all points of doubling, repunching, or anything else interesting. Included with each variety are detailed diagnostics, pricing, rarity, cross reference and comments which will explain all. My other passion is history, I live near the National Archives in Philadelphia and have spent one weekend every month for the last 5 years reading letters from Longacre, Mint Directors and people who actually made the history. Most of what we have learned in terms of history from Breen and others has been hearsay which was documented before it was proven. I believe that before I can say something, I must prove it. The back of the book has some 40 pages of archive letters which back up the history explained in the front. To order a copy of

the book, the soft cover is available for \$44.95 + \$3.50 for postage at Larry Steve, P.O. Box 291, Jarrettsville, MD 21084. Also my two cent book "Getting Your Two Cents Worth" is available for \$ 12.95 plus \$3.50 postage at Kevin Flynn, P.O. Box 538, Rancocas, NJ 08073.

I am interested in seeing all MPD's of all denominations. If I do not become the MPD attributor for CONECA, then I still wish to see all MPD's for the book I will be doing, but I need Indian MPD's also for the update to Larry and my Flying Eagle and Indian cent book. The first update should be out this summer. Please write first with a description of the MPD's you have.

John Wexler and I are working on a Lincoln cent book that should be out this summer. In researching this series, I have found many interesting facts about the history that has never been documented before and we have many new dramatic varieties never seen before.

NOTICE TO OUR READERS

Longacre's Ledger welcomes and actively encourages members of the Fly-In-Club to contribute articles of interest. It is requested however, that any materials sent be submitted on white paper, and be imaged with fresh typewriter ribbons and/or fully charged laser printer toner cartridges. Since the *Ledger* is now being compiled by the printer using optical scanning technology to save on keystrokes, articles submitted in the proper way will help hold costs down.

Your assistance in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

THE EIGHTS OF 08

by Donald R. Curry
Fly-In Club Life Member

1908 is becoming a banner year for Misplaced Date varieties. This article will identify four known varieties, and, hopefully, it will serve as an aid in collecting this variety.

Variety One is the best known variety, being featured in *The Cherrypickers' Guide to Rare Die Varieties* as FS1-001.7.7 and in *The F.IND.ERS™ Report* as FND-001. The top of an 8 can be seen between the denticles directly below the 8 in the date extending to the west between the next denticles. The distinguishing feature of Variety One is that the portion of the 8 lying directly below the 8 is at a slight angle, southeast to northwest, and is situated high in the denticles, but not protruding out of the denticles.

Variety Two is similar to Variety One in that the top of an 8 lies between the denticles directly below the primary 8. On this variety the 8 does not extend to the west between the next set of denticles, and it lies horizontally, rather than at an angle. Late die state reverses show die cracks at 3:30 extending from the rim into the wreath, at 7:00 from the rim east across the bow, and at 10:00 from the rim southeast into the wreath.

Variety Three is the most easily identifiable variety with the top of an 8 protruding out of the denticles very similar to the 1898 '9 in denticles' variety. In this case, the top of the 8 extends from the space between the denticles below the west side of the primary 8 over the top of the denticle to the west into the next space between denticles. This places the top of the 8 directly below the space between the 0 and the 8 in the date. The reverse has a closed E in CENT.

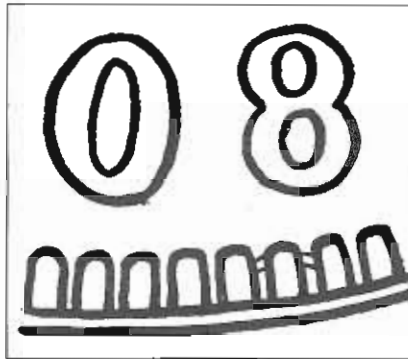
Variety Four has two variety characteristics, a misplaced date and a repunched date. The tops of two 8's appear in the denticles, one in the space between denticles directly below the space between the 0 and the 8 in the date at the middle of the denticles and one in the next space west low in the denticles. The 1 and 9 of the date are repunched slightly to the south at the base similar to S3. The reverse has a closed E in CENT.

There are probably many more of "The Eights of 08". The author would enjoy your comments and additional findings: 905 Fort Worth Club Building, Fort Worth, Texas 76102.

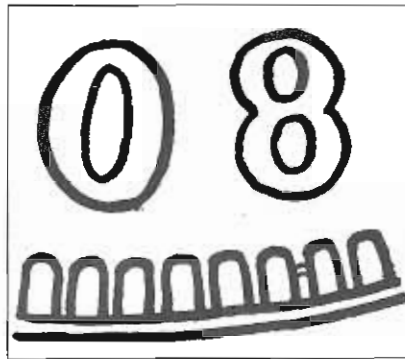
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THE F.IND.ERS™ REPORT

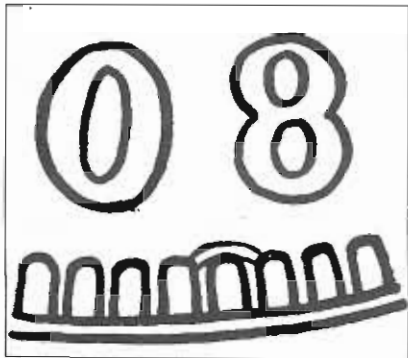
by Larry Steve
Fly-In Club Life Member



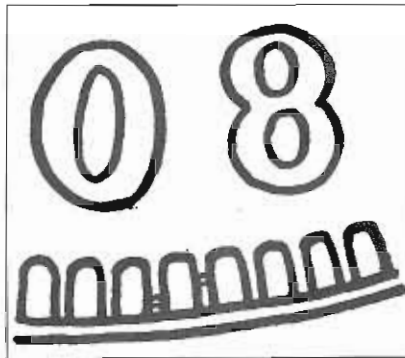
VARIETY I



VARIETY II



VARIETY III



VARIETY IV

In the last issue of the *Ledger*, under "Letters to the Editor" in response to Doug Hill's letter, I commented that I believe the collecting of Flying Eagle and Indian cents by variety may evolve into two fundamental branches: Those who collect all varieties for a specific date, and those who collect a specific category of variety for all dates. With regard to collecting all varieties for a specific date, this may be more true for some dates than for other dates.

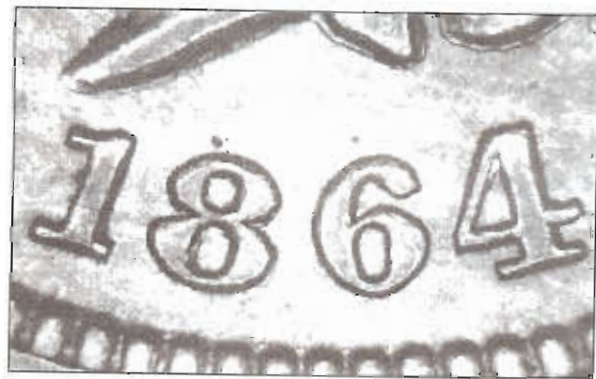
One such date that comes to mind is that of 1864-L. Walter Breen's *Encyclopedia* mentions that there are estimated to be eighteen (18) different dies for this specific date; Rick Snow's book identifies twelve (12) of them. Identifying the remaining dies and assembling a complete set of each of these die varieties for this date is certainly well within reach and could be reasonably accomplished by an individual. In fact, it is one of several pet projects of mine with respect to this series. Further thinking along these lines - once eighteen dies are identified, imagine the excitement if someone were to later identify die number nineteen; and then perhaps still later, die number twenty is identified.

Following are two more 1864-L die varieties to look for; both are RPDs. The first of these was discovered by Gus Seremetis of Acropolis Coins. Gus is keenly aware of my interest in varieties and keeps a sharp eye out nice specimens. He was especially happy to find this one, as was I. Bold repunching of the 6 can be seen inside the loop. There is also some evi-



dence of repunching above the crossbar of the 4. Gus and I agreed upon a price and his discovery piece was added to my collection.

Another new addition to my collection is this next variety. It's one that I happened across at a local show. Bold repunching of the 8 is clearly visible toward the southeast; it appears both inside and outside both loops of the final 8. Repunching on the 4 is seen along the inside of the diagonal upright, more so in the upper corner.



Both of these coins are welcomed additions. I'll let you know when we reach eighteen; until then keep searching.

EDITOR'S NOTE: F.I.N.D.E.R.S IS A TRADEMARK OF LARRY R. STEVE AND IS USED WITHIN THIS JOURNAL WITH HIS PERMISSION.

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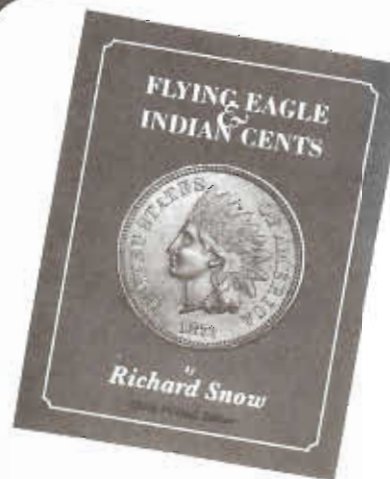
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